



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Raised Bill No. 174

LCO No. 1439

01439_____PRI

Referred to Committee on Program Review and Investigations

Introduced by:
(PRI)

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE
CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-3 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

3 (a) The department shall plan, create, develop, operate or arrange
4 for, administer and evaluate a comprehensive and integrated
5 state-wide program of services, including preventive services, for
6 children and youths whose behavior does not conform to the law or to
7 acceptable community standards, or who are mentally ill, including
8 deaf and hearing impaired children and youths who are mentally ill,
9 emotionally disturbed, substance abusers, delinquent, abused,
10 neglected or uncared for, including all children and youths who are or
11 may be committed to it by any court, and all children and youths
12 voluntarily admitted to, or remaining voluntarily under the
13 supervision of, the commissioner for services of any kind. Services
14 shall not be denied to any such child or youth solely because of other
15 complicating or multiple disabilities. The department shall work in

16 cooperation with other child-serving agencies and organizations to
17 provide or arrange for preventive programs, including, but not limited
18 to, teenage pregnancy and youth suicide prevention, for children and
19 youths and their families. The program shall provide services and
20 placements that are clinically indicated and appropriate to the needs of
21 the child or youth. In furtherance of this purpose, the department
22 shall: (1) Maintain the Connecticut Juvenile Training School and other
23 appropriate facilities exclusively for delinquents; (2) develop a
24 comprehensive program for prevention of problems of children and
25 youths and provide a flexible, innovative and effective program for the
26 placement, care and treatment of children and youths committed by
27 any court to the department, transferred to the department by other
28 departments, or voluntarily admitted to the department; (3) provide
29 appropriate services to families of children and youths as needed to
30 achieve the purposes of sections 17a-1 to 17a-26, inclusive, as amended
31 by this act, 17a-28 to 17a-49, inclusive, of the 2008 supplement to the
32 general statutes and 17a-51; (4) establish incentive paid work programs
33 for children and youths under the care of the department and the rates
34 to be paid such children and youths for work done in such programs
35 and may provide allowances to children and youths in the custody of
36 the department; (5) be responsible to collect, interpret and publish
37 statistics relating to children and youths within the department; (6)
38 conduct studies of any program, service or facility developed,
39 operated, contracted for or supported by the department in order to
40 evaluate its effectiveness, and for any new such program, service or
41 facility established after July 1, 2008, whose funding exceeds twenty
42 million dollars, require an external evaluation to analyze and assess
43 the outcomes of the program, service or facility; (7) establish staff
44 development and other training and educational programs designed to
45 improve the quality of departmental services and programs, provided
46 no social worker trainee shall be assigned a case load prior to
47 completing training, and may establish educational or training
48 programs for children, youths, parents or other interested persons on
49 any matter related to the promotion of the well-being of children, or

50 the prevention of mental illness, emotional disturbance, delinquency
51 and other disabilities in children and youths; (8) develop and
52 implement aftercare and follow-up services appropriate to the needs of
53 any child or youth under the care of the department; (9) establish a
54 case audit unit to monitor each area office's compliance with
55 regulations and procedures; (10) develop and maintain a database
56 listing available community service programs funded by the
57 department; (11) provide outreach and assistance to persons caring for
58 children whose parents are unable to do so by informing such persons
59 of programs and benefits for which they may be eligible; and (12)
60 collect data sufficient to identify the housing needs of children served
61 by the department and share such data with the Department of
62 Economic and Community Development.

63 [(b) The department shall prepare and submit biennially to the
64 General Assembly a five-year master plan. The master plan shall
65 include, but not be limited to: (1) The long-range goals and the current
66 level of attainment of such goals of the department; (2) a detailed
67 description of the types and amounts of services presently provided to
68 the department's clients; (3) a detailed forecast of the service needs of
69 current and projected target populations; (4) detailed cost projections
70 for alternate means of meeting projected needs; (5) funding priorities
71 for each of the five years included in the plan and specific plans
72 indicating how the funds are to be used; (6) a written plan for the
73 prevention of child abuse and neglect; (7) a comprehensive mental
74 health plan for children and adolescents, including children with
75 complicating or multiple disabilities; (8) a comprehensive plan for
76 children and youths who are substance abusers, developed in
77 conjunction with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
78 Services pursuant to the provisions of sections 19a-2a and 19a-7; and
79 (9) an overall assessment of the adequacy of children's services in
80 Connecticut. The plan shall be prepared within existing funds
81 appropriated to the department.]

82 (b) (1) The department shall develop and regularly update a single,

83 comprehensive strategic plan for meeting the needs of children and
84 families served by the department. In developing and updating the
85 strategic plan, including setting goals, the department shall consult
86 with representatives of the children and families served by the
87 department, providers of services to children and families, advocates,
88 and others interested in the well-being of children and families in this
89 state. The strategic plan shall include, but not be limited to: (A) The
90 department's mission statement; (B) the goals of the department, each
91 of its mandated areas and each of its programs and services; (C) a
92 schedule of steps and a time frame for achieving such goals and
93 fulfilling its mission; (D) priorities for services and estimates of the
94 funding and other resources necessary to carry them out; (E) standards
95 for programs and services; and (F) relevant measures of progress.

96 (2) The department shall begin the strategic planning process on
97 July 1, 2008. The department shall submit the strategic plan to the State
98 Advisory Council on Children and Families for review and comment
99 prior to its final submission to the General Assembly and the
100 Governor. On or before July 1, 2009, the department shall submit the
101 strategic plan, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the General
102 Assembly and the Governor.

103 (3) The commissioner shall track and report on progress in
104 achieving the strategic plan's goals not later than October 1, 2009, and
105 quarterly thereafter, to said State Advisory Council. The commissioner
106 shall submit a status report on carrying out the strategic plan, in
107 accordance with section 11-4a, not later than July 1, 2010, and annually
108 thereafter to the General Assembly and the Governor.

109 (c) The department shall prepare a plan to keep children who are
110 convicted as delinquent and will be committed to the Department of
111 Children and Families and placed in the Connecticut Juvenile Training
112 School in such facility for at least one year after their referral to the
113 department, which plan shall include provisions for development of a
114 comprehensive approach to juvenile rehabilitation.

115 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 17a-6 of the general statutes is
116 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
117 *1, 2008*):

118 (b) Administer in a coordinated and integrated manner all
119 institutions and facilities which are or may come under the jurisdiction
120 of the department and [may] shall appoint advisory groups for any
121 such institution or facility.

122 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The facilities that come
123 under the jurisdiction of the department, as enumerated in section 17a-
124 32 of the general statutes, shall submit an annual report to their
125 respective advisory groups, established pursuant to subsection (b) of
126 section 17a-6 of the general statutes, as amended by this act. The report
127 shall include, but not be limited to: (1) Aggregate profiles of the
128 residents; (2) a description of and update on major initiatives; (3) key
129 outcome indicators and results; (4) costs associated with operating the
130 facility; and (5) a description of educational, vocational and literacy
131 programs, and behavioral, treatment and other services available to the
132 residents and their outcomes.

133 (b) Such advisory groups shall respond to their facility's annual
134 report, as required by subsection (a) of this section, and provide any
135 recommendations for improvement or enhancement that they deem
136 necessary.

137 (c) The Department of Children and Families shall serve as
138 administrative staff of such advisory groups.

139 Sec. 4. Section 17a-27f of the general statutes is repealed and the
140 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

141 [(a) The Department of Children and Families shall establish a
142 public safety committee in the municipality in which the Connecticut
143 Juvenile Training School is located. The committee shall be composed
144 of the superintendent of said school and representatives appointed by

145 the chief elected official of the municipality. The committee shall meet
146 not less than quarterly to review safety and security issues which affect
147 the host municipality.]

148 [(b)] At the time the Connecticut Juvenile Training School becomes
149 operational, the Department of Children and Families shall ensure that
150 a community security and alert system [shall be] is functional.

151 Sec. 5. Section 46a-13l of the general statutes is repealed and the
152 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

153 (a) The Child Advocate shall:

154 (1) Evaluate the delivery of services to children by state agencies
155 and those entities that provide services to children through funds
156 provided by the state;

157 (2) Review periodically the procedures established by any state
158 agency providing services to children to carry out the provisions of
159 sections 46a-13k to 46a-13q, inclusive, with a view toward the rights of
160 the children and recommend revisions to such procedures;

161 (3) Review complaints of persons concerning the actions of any state
162 or municipal agency providing services to children and of any entity
163 that provides services to children through funds provided by the state,
164 make appropriate referrals and investigate those where the Child
165 Advocate determines that a child or family may be in need of
166 assistance from the Child Advocate or that a systemic issue in the
167 state's provision of services to children is raised by the complaint;

168 (4) Pursuant to an investigation, provide assistance to a child or
169 family who the Child Advocate determines is in need of such
170 assistance including, but not limited to, advocating with an agency,
171 provider or others on behalf of the best interests of the child;

172 (5) Periodically review the facilities and procedures of any and all
173 institutions or residences, public or private, where a juvenile has been

174 placed by any agency or department;

175 (6) Recommend changes in state policies concerning children
176 including changes in the system of providing juvenile justice, child
177 care, foster care and treatment;

178 (7) Take all possible action including, but not limited to, conducting
179 programs of public education, undertaking legislative advocacy and
180 making proposals for systemic reform and formal legal action, in order
181 to secure and ensure the legal, civil and special rights of children who
182 reside in this state;

183 (8) Provide training and technical assistance to attorneys
184 representing children and guardians ad litem appointed by the
185 Superior Court;

186 (9) Periodically review the number of special needs children in any
187 foster care or permanent care facility and recommend changes in the
188 policies and procedures for the placement of such children;

189 (10) Serve or designate a person to serve as a member of the child
190 fatality review panel established in subsection (b) of this section; and

191 (11) Take appropriate steps to advise the public of the services of the
192 Office of the Child Advocate, the purpose of the office and procedures
193 to contact the office.

194 (b) There is established a child fatality review panel composed of
195 thirteen permanent members as follows: The Child Advocate, or a
196 designee; the Commissioners of Children and Families, Public Health
197 and Public Safety, or their designees; the Chief Medical Examiner, or a
198 designee; the Chief State's Attorney, or a designee; a pediatrician,
199 appointed by the Governor; a representative of law enforcement,
200 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate; an attorney,
201 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; a social work
202 professional, appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; a
203 representative of a community service group appointed by the speaker

204 of the House of Representatives; a psychologist, appointed by the
205 majority leader of the House of Representatives; and an injury
206 prevention representative, appointed by the minority leader of the
207 House of Representatives. A majority of the panel may select not more
208 than three additional temporary members with particular expertise or
209 interest to serve on the panel. Such temporary members shall have the
210 same duties and powers as the permanent members of the panel. The
211 chairperson shall be elected from among the panel's permanent
212 members. The panel shall, to the greatest extent possible, reflect the
213 ethnic, cultural and geographic diversity of the state.

214 (c) The panel shall review the circumstances of the death of a child
215 placed in out-of-home care or whose death was due to unexpected or
216 unexplained causes to facilitate development of prevention strategies
217 to address identified trends and patterns of risk and to improve
218 coordination of services for children and families in the state. Members
219 of the panel shall not be compensated for their services, but may be
220 reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of
221 their duties.

222 (d) On or before January 1, 2000, and annually thereafter, the panel
223 shall issue an annual report which shall include its findings and
224 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on its
225 review of child fatalities for the preceding year.

226 (e) (1) Upon request of two-thirds of the members of the panel and
227 within available appropriations, the Governor, the General Assembly
228 or at the Child Advocate's discretion, the Child Advocate shall conduct
229 an in-depth investigation and review and issue a report with
230 recommendations on the death or critical incident of a child. The
231 report shall be submitted to the Governor, the General Assembly and
232 the commissioner of any state agency cited in the report and shall be
233 made available to the general public.

234 (2) The Department of Children and Families, or any other state
235 agency cited in a report pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection,

236 shall submit a written response to the report and recommendations,
237 made pursuant to said subdivision, to the Office of the Child Advocate
238 and the panel not later than forty-five days after the receipt of said
239 report and recommendations. The agency shall also submit a copy of
240 such response to the General Assembly. The response shall include,
241 but not be limited to: (A) Proposed corrective actions to address
242 identified problems; and (B) a time frame for implementation of
243 improvements.

244 (f) The Chief Medical Examiner shall provide timely notice to the
245 Child Advocate and to the chairperson of the child fatality review
246 panel of the death of any child that is to be investigated pursuant to
247 section 19a-406.

248 (g) Any agency having responsibility for the custody or care of
249 children shall provide timely notice to the Child Advocate and the
250 chairperson of the child fatality review panel of the death of a child or
251 a critical incident involving a child in its custody or care.

252 Sec. 6. Section 17a-4 of the general statutes is repealed and the
253 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

254 (a) There shall be a State Advisory Council on Children and
255 Families which shall consist of seventeen members appointed by the
256 Governor, including at least five persons who are child care
257 professionals, one child psychiatrist licensed to practice medicine in
258 this state and at least one attorney. The balance of the advisory council
259 shall be representative of young persons, parents and others interested
260 in the delivery of services to children and youths. No less than fifty per
261 cent of the council's members shall be parents or family members of
262 children who have received, or are receiving, behavioral health
263 services, child welfare services or juvenile services and no more than
264 half the members of the council shall be persons who receive income
265 from a private practice or any public or private agency that delivers
266 mental health, substance abuse, child abuse prevention and treatment,
267 child welfare services or juvenile services. Members of the council shall

268 serve without compensation, except for necessary expenses incurred in
269 the performance of their duties. The department shall provide the
270 council with funding to ensure that those members representing
271 families can serve on the council, as well as for other administrative
272 support services. Members shall serve on the council for terms of two
273 years each and no member shall serve for more than two consecutive
274 terms. The commissioner shall be an ex-officio member of the council
275 without vote and shall attend its meetings. Any member who fails to
276 attend three consecutive meetings or fifty per cent of all meetings
277 during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned. The
278 council shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson to act in the
279 chairperson's absence.

280 (b) The council shall meet quarterly, and more often upon the call of
281 the chair or a majority of the members. The council's meetings shall be
282 held at locations that facilitate participation by members of the public,
283 and its agenda and minutes shall be posted on the department's web
284 site. A majority of the members in office, but not less than six
285 members, shall constitute a quorum. The council shall have complete
286 access to all records of the institutions and facilities of the department
287 in furtherance of its duties, while at all times protecting the right of
288 privacy of all individuals involved, as provided in section 17a-28 of the
289 2008 supplement to the general statutes.

290 (c) The duties of the council shall be to: (1) Recommend to the
291 commissioner programs, legislation or other matters which will
292 improve services for children and youths, including behavioral health
293 services; (2) annually review and advise the commissioner regarding
294 the proposed budget; (3) interpret to the community at large the
295 policies, duties and programs of the department; [and] (4) issue any
296 reports it deems necessary to the Governor and the Commissioner of
297 Children and Families; (5) establish a subcommittee to fulfill the state's
298 mental health planning and advisory council responsibilities under
299 Public Laws 99-660, 101-639 and 102-321; (6) review and comment on
300 the strategic plan developed by the department, pursuant to

301 subsection (b) of section 17a-3, as amended by this act; (7) receive on a
302 quarterly basis from the commissioner a status report on the
303 department's progress in carrying out the strategic plan; (8)
304 independently monitor the department's progress in achieving its
305 goals as expressed in the strategic plan; and (9) offer assistance and
306 provide an outside perspective to the department so that it may be able
307 to achieve the goals expressed in the strategic plan.

308 Sec. 7. Section 17a-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the
309 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

310 As used in sections 17a-1 to 17a-26, inclusive, as amended by this
311 act, 17a-28 to 17a-49, inclusive, of the 2008 supplement to the general
312 statutes, 17a-127 and 46b-120 of the 2008 supplement to the general
313 statutes, unless otherwise provided in said sections:

314 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Children and
315 Families;

316 (2) "Council" means the State Advisory Council on Children and
317 Families;

318 [(3) "Advisory committee" means the Children's Behavioral Health
319 Advisory Committee to the council;]

320 [(4)] (3) "Department" means the Department of Children and
321 Families;

322 [(5)] (4) "Child" means any person under sixteen years of age;

323 [(6)] (5) "Youth" means any person at least sixteen years of age and
324 under nineteen years of age;

325 [(7)] (6) "Delinquent child" shall have the meaning ascribed thereto
326 in section 46b-120 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes;

327 [(8)] (7) "Child or youth with behavioral health needs" means a child
328 or youth who is suffering from one or more mental disorders as

329 defined in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric
330 Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders";

331 [(9)] (8) "Individual service plan" means a written plan to access
332 specialized, coordinated and integrated care for a child or youth with
333 complex behavioral health service needs that is designed to meet the
334 needs of the child or youth and his or her family and may include,
335 when appropriate (A) an assessment of the individual needs of the
336 child or youth, (B) an identification of service needs, (C) an
337 identification of services that are currently being provided, (D) an
338 identification of opportunities for full participation by parents or
339 emancipated minors, (E) a reintegration plan when an out-of-home
340 placement is made or recommended, (F) an identification of criteria for
341 evaluating the effectiveness and appropriateness of such plan, and (G)
342 coordination of the individual service plan with any educational
343 services provided to the child or youth. The plan shall be subject to
344 review at least every six months or upon reasonable request by the
345 parent based on a changed circumstance, and be approved, in writing,
346 by the parents, guardian of a child or youth and emancipated minors;

347 [(10)] (9) "Family" means a child or youth with behavioral health
348 needs and (A) one or more biological or adoptive parents, except for a
349 parent whose parental rights have been terminated, (B) one or more
350 persons to whom legal custody or guardianship has been given, or (C)
351 one or more adults who have a primary responsibility for providing
352 continuous care to such child or youth;

353 [(11)] (10) "Parent" means a biological or adoptive parent, except a
354 parent whose parental rights have been terminated;

355 [(12)] (11) "Guardian" means a person who has a judicially created
356 relationship between a child or youth and such person that is intended
357 to be permanent and self-sustaining as evidenced by the transfer to
358 such person of the following parental rights with respect to the child or
359 youth: (A) The obligation of care and control; (B) the authority to make
360 major decisions affecting the child's or youth's welfare, including, but

361 not limited to, consent determinations regarding marriage, enlistment
362 in the armed forces and major medical, psychiatric or surgical
363 treatment; (C) the obligation of protection of the child or youth; (D) the
364 obligation to provide access to education; and (E) custody of the child
365 or youth;

366 [(13)] (12) "Serious emotional disturbance" and "seriously
367 emotionally disturbed" means, with regard to a child or youth, that the
368 child or youth (A) has a range of diagnosable mental, behavioral or
369 emotional disorders of sufficient duration to meet diagnostic criteria
370 specified in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric
371 Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders",
372 and (B) exhibits behaviors that substantially interfere with or limit the
373 child's or youth's ability to function in the family, school or community
374 and are not a temporary response to a stressful situation;

375 [(14)] (13) "Child or youth with complex behavioral health service
376 needs" means a child or youth with behavioral health needs who needs
377 specialized, coordinated behavioral health services;

378 [(15)] (14) "Transition services" means services in the areas of
379 education, employment, housing and community living designed to
380 assist a youth with a serious emotional disturbance who is
381 transitioning into adulthood; and

382 [(16)] (15) "Community collaborative" means a local consortium of
383 public and private health care providers, parents and guardians of
384 children with behavioral health needs and service and education
385 agencies that have organized to develop coordinated comprehensive
386 community resources for children or youths with complex behavioral
387 health service needs and their families in accordance with principles
388 and goals of Connecticut Community KidCare.

389 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 17a-22b of the general statutes is
390 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
391 *1, 2008*):

392 (a) Each community collaborative shall, within available
393 appropriations, (1) complete a local needs assessment which shall
394 include objectives and performance measures, (2) specify the number
395 of children and youths requiring behavioral health services, and (3)
396 specify the number of children and youths actually receiving
397 community-based and residential services and the type and frequency
398 of such services. [, and (4) complete an annual self-evaluation process
399 and a review of discharge summaries.] Each community collaborative
400 shall submit its local needs assessment to the Commissioner of
401 Children and Families and the Commissioner of Social Services.

402 Sec. 9. Section 17a-145 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes
403 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
404 *1, 2008*):

405 No person or entity shall care for or board a child without a license
406 obtained from the Commissioner of Children and Families, except: (1)
407 When a child has been placed by a person or entity holding a license
408 from the commissioner; (2) any residential educational institution
409 exempted by the state Board of Education under the provisions of
410 section 17a-152; (3) residential facilities licensed by the Department of
411 Developmental Services pursuant to section 17a-227 of the 2008
412 supplement to the general statutes; (4) facilities providing child day
413 care services, as defined in section 19a-77 of the 2008 supplement to the
414 general statutes; or (5) any home that houses students participating in
415 a program described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (8) of section
416 10a-29. The person or entity seeking a child-care facility license shall
417 file with the commissioner an application for a license, in such form as
418 the commissioner furnishes, stating the location where it is proposed
419 to care for such child, the number of children to be cared for, in the
420 case of a corporation, the purpose of the corporation and the names of
421 its chief officers and of the actual person responsible for the child. The
422 Commissioner of Children and Families is authorized to fix the
423 maximum number of children to be boarded and cared for in any such
424 home or institution or by any person or entity licensed by the

425 commissioner. [Each person or entity holding a license under the
426 provisions of this section shall file annually, with the commissioner, a
427 report stating the number of children received and removed during
428 the year, the number of deaths and the causes of death, the average
429 cost of support per capita and such other data as the commissioner
430 may prescribe.] If the population served at any facility, institution or
431 home operated by any person or entity licensed under this section
432 changes after such license is issued, such person or entity shall file a
433 new license application with the commissioner, and the commissioner
434 shall notify the chief executive officer of the municipality in which the
435 facility is located of such new license application, except that no
436 confidential client information may be disclosed.

437 Sec. 10. Section 17a-37 of the general statutes is repealed and the
438 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

439 (a) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall establish a
440 school district within the Department of Children and Families, for the
441 education or assistance of any child or youth who resides in or receives
442 day treatment at any state-operated institution or facility within that
443 department and whose needs require that his education be provided
444 within the institution in which he resides or at which he receives day
445 treatment. The school district shall be known as State of Connecticut-
446 Unified School District #2. The Commissioner of Children and
447 Families shall administer, coordinate and control the operations of the
448 school district and shall be responsible for the overall supervision and
449 direction of all courses and activities of the school district and shall
450 establish such vocational and academic education, research and
451 statistics, training and development services and programs as he
452 considers necessary or advisable in the best interests of the persons
453 benefiting therefrom. The commissioner or his designee shall be the
454 superintendent of said district and shall act in accordance with the
455 applicable provisions of section 10-157 of the 2008 supplement to the
456 general statutes.

457 (b) The superintendent of the school district shall have the power to
458 (1) establish and maintain within the Department of Children and
459 Families such schools of different grades as he may from time to time
460 require and deem necessary; (2) establish and maintain within the
461 department such school libraries as may from time to time be required
462 in connection with the educational courses, services and programs
463 authorized by this section; (3) purchase, receive, hold and convey
464 personal property for school purposes and equip and supply such
465 schools with necessary furniture and other appendages; (4) make
466 agreements and regulations for the establishing and conducting of the
467 district's schools and employ and dismiss, in accordance with the
468 applicable provisions of section 10-151, such teachers as are necessary
469 to carry out the intent of this section and to pay their salaries; (5)
470 receive any federal funds or aid made available to the state for such
471 programs and shall be eligible for and may receive any other funds or
472 aid whether private, state or otherwise, to be used for the purposes of
473 this section.

474 (c) The superintendent of the school district may cooperate with the
475 federal government in carrying out the purposes of any federal law
476 pertaining to the education of students within his school district, and
477 may adopt such methods of administration as are found by the federal
478 government to be necessary, and may comply with such conditions as
479 may be necessary to secure the full benefit of all such federal funds
480 available.

481 [(d) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall annually
482 evaluate the progress and accomplishments of the school district
483 established in accordance with subsection (a) of this section. Said
484 commissioner shall submit annual evaluation reports to the
485 Commissioner of Education in order to apprise the State Board of
486 Education of the true condition, progress and needs of said school
487 district. Said commissioner shall follow procedures adopted by the
488 Commissioner of Education in preparation of annual evaluation
489 reports.]

490 Sec. 11. Section 17a-22c of the general statutes is repealed and the
491 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

492 (a) The Commissioner of Children and Families and the
493 Commissioner of Social Services shall establish performance measures
494 in the areas of finance, administration, utilization, client satisfaction,
495 quality and access for Connecticut Community KidCare.

496 (b) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall develop and
497 implement, within available appropriations, culturally appropriate
498 and competency-based curricula including best practices for the care of
499 children and youths with, or at risk of, behavioral health needs and
500 offer training to all willing persons involved in Connecticut
501 Community KidCare, including, but not limited to, employees in
502 education and child care and appropriate employees within the
503 judicial system.

504 [(c) The Commissioners of Children and Families and Social
505 Services shall, within available appropriations, design and conduct a
506 five-year independent longitudinal evaluation with evaluation goals
507 and methods utilizing an independent evaluator. The evaluation shall
508 assess changes in outcomes for individual children, youths and
509 families, evaluate the effectiveness of the overall initiative in the early
510 phases to guide future expansion of Connecticut Community KidCare
511 and examine benefits, costs and cost avoidance achieved by it. Such
512 evaluation may include, but is not limited to, the following: (1)
513 Utilization of out-of-home placements; (2) adherence to system of care
514 principles; (3) school attendance; (4) delinquency recidivism rates; (5)
515 satisfaction of families and children and youths with Connecticut
516 Community KidCare as assessed through client satisfaction surveys;
517 (6) coordination of Connecticut Community KidCare with the juvenile
518 justice, child protection, adult behavioral health and education
519 systems; and (7) the quality of transition services.]

520 Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The Commissioner of
521 Children and Families and the chief administrative judge for juvenile

522 matters of the Superior Court shall establish, within available
523 appropriations, a pilot program to integrate the initial written plan for
524 care, treatment and permanent placement of children and youth
525 required under section 17a-15 of the general statutes, with the specific
526 steps for family reunification ordered by the court pursuant to
527 subsection (j) of section 46b-129 of the 2008 supplement to the general
528 statutes. The Commissioner of Children and Families, in consultation
529 with said chief administrative judge for juvenile matters, shall
530 designate one Department of Children and Families area office to
531 participate in the pilot program. The pilot program shall commence on
532 or before July 1, 2008, and shall terminate not later than July 1, 2010.

533 (b) A court services officer of the court participating in the pilot
534 program shall be responsible for convening a meeting to develop the
535 treatment plan and proposed specific steps for the child and family,
536 and shall invite the parents or guardians, the child or youth, when
537 appropriate, and their respective attorneys, department staff
538 responsible for developing and implementing treatment plans, and
539 individuals involved in assessing needs and providing services for the
540 child and family.

541 (c) Following the meeting, the court shall order specific steps that
542 the parent must take to facilitate the return of the child or youth to the
543 custody of such parent. In addition to satisfying the requirements set
544 forth in subsection (a) of section 17a-15 of the general statutes for the
545 Department of Children and Families' written plan for the care,
546 treatment and permanent placement of every child under the
547 commissioner's supervision, the plan shall also include, but not be
548 limited to: (1) Assessment of the health and welfare of the child or
549 youth; (2) an evaluation of the problems and strengths of each child or
550 youth; (3) the proposed plan of treatment services and temporary
551 placement, and a goal for permanent placement of the child or youth;
552 and (4) specific planning goals and clear, comprehensive, time-
553 sensitive action steps for educational and behavioral health needs.

554 (d) The Commissioner of Children and Families and the chief
 555 administrative judge for juvenile matters shall report, in accordance
 556 with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
 557 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 558 relating to human services and judiciary and the select committee of
 559 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
 560 children not later than November 1, 2010, concerning the results of
 561 such pilot program. The report shall include an independent
 562 assessment of the impact of the pilot program on the quality of written
 563 treatment plans, consistency between treatment plans and specific
 564 steps, and participation of parents or guardians, the child or youth,
 565 when appropriate, and their respective attorneys, department staff
 566 responsible for developing and implementing treatment plans, and
 567 individuals involved in assessing needs and providing services for the
 568 child and family. The report shall also include a recommendation on
 569 whether the program should be expanded state-wide.

570 Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 17a-450a of the 2008 supplement to
 571 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
 572 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

573 (b) The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall
 574 constitute a successor department to the addiction services component
 575 of the Department of Public Health and Addiction Services. Whenever
 576 the words "Commissioner of Public Health and Addiction Services" are
 577 used or referred to in the following general statutes, the words
 578 "Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services" shall be
 579 substituted in lieu thereof and whenever the words "Department of
 580 Public Health and Addiction Services" are used or referred to in the
 581 following general statutes, the words "Department of Mental Health
 582 and Addiction Services" shall be substituted in lieu thereof: 4a-12 of
 583 the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, [17a-3,] 17a-465a, 17a-670
 584 to 17a-676, inclusive, 17a-678 to 17a-682, inclusive, 17a-684 to 17a-687,
 585 inclusive, 17a-691, 17a-694, 17a-710, 17a-712, 17a-713 19a-89c, 20-74o,
 586 20-74p, 20-74q, 21a-274a, 54-36i and 54-56g of the 2008 supplement to

587 the general statutes.

588 Sec. 14. Subsection (b) of section 17a-210c of the 2008 supplement to
589 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
590 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

591 (b) Whenever the term "Commissioner of Mental Retardation" is
592 used or referred to in the following sections of the general statutes, the
593 term "Commissioner of Developmental Services" shall be substituted
594 in lieu thereof: 4-5 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 4b-3
595 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 4b-23 of the 2008
596 supplement to the general statutes, 8-3e of the 2008 supplement to the
597 general statutes, 10-76i of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes,
598 [17a-4a,] 17a-22a of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-
599 210 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-212, 17a-212a of
600 the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-214 of the 2008
601 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-215a of the 2008 supplement to
602 the general statutes, 17a-215b of the 2008 supplement to the general
603 statutes, 17a-217a of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-
604 218 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-218a of the 2008
605 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-225 of the 2008 supplement to
606 the general statutes, 17a-226 of the 2008 supplement to the general
607 statutes, 17a-227a of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-
608 228 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-229 of the 2008
609 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-230 of the 2008 supplement to
610 the general statutes, 17a-232 of the 2008 supplement to the general
611 statutes, 17a-238 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-
612 240 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-241 of the 2008
613 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-242 of the 2008 supplement to
614 the general statutes, 17a-244 of the 2008 supplement to the general
615 statutes, 17a-246 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-
616 247a of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-248 of the 2008
617 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-270 of the 2008 supplement to
618 the general statutes, 17a-272 of the 2008 supplement to the general
619 statutes, 17a-273 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-

274 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-276 of the 2008
supplement to the general statutes, 17a-277 of the 2008 supplement to
the general statutes, 17a-281 of the 2008 supplement to the general
statutes, 17a-282 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-
582 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-584 of the 2008
supplement to the general statutes, 17a-586 of the 2008 supplement to
the general statutes, 17a-587 of the 2008 supplement to the general
statutes, 17a-588 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-
592 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17a-593 of the 2008
supplement to the general statutes, 17a-594 of the 2008 supplement to
the general statutes, 17a-596 of the 2008 supplement to the general
statutes, 17a-599 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17b-
28a of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17b-244 of the 2008
supplement to the general statutes, 17b-244a of the 2008 supplement to
the general statutes, 17b-337 of the 2008 supplement to the general
statutes, 17b-340 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 17b-
492b of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 19a-24 of the 2008
supplement to the general statutes, 19a-411 of the 2008 supplement to
the general statutes, 19a-580d of the 2008 supplement to the general
statutes, 20-14j of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 20-571 of
the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 45a-670 of the 2008
supplement to the general statutes, 45a-674 of the 2008 supplement to
the general statutes, 45a-676 of the 2008 supplement to the general
statutes, 45a-677 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 45a-
681 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 45a-682 of the 2008
supplement to the general statutes, 45a-692 of the 2008 supplement to
the general statutes, 46a-11a of the 2008 supplement to the general
statutes, 46a-11c of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 46a-11f
of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, 54-56d of the 2008
supplement to the general statutes, 54-102g of the 2008 supplement to
the general statutes and 54-102h of the 2008 supplement to the general
statutes.

Sec. 15. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) Sections 17a-4a, 17a-6b, 17a-6c, 17a-21,
 17a-91a, 17a-116b and 46b-121m of the general statutes are repealed.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	17a-3
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	17a-6(b)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	17a-27f
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	46a-13l
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	17a-4
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	17a-1
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	17a-22b(a)
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	17a-145
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	17a-37
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	17a-22c
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	17a-450a(b)
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	17a-210c(b)
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the recommendations of the Program Review and Investigations Committee regarding the Department of Children and Families by improving the department's monitoring and evaluation system.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]